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No. 1

LETTERS TO GENERAL GREENE AND OTHERS

Annotated by JOSEPH W. BARNWELL

(Continued from the October Number)

[COLONEL BALFOUR TO LT. MCPHERSON¹]

Charlestown Jan^y 21st 1781

Sir:

I have received your Letter of the 19th Inst: & am to thank you for the very proper measures you took to free the Country from the Enemy's Plundering Parties, & trust you will, in a great degree, hinder their again crossing to your Side of the River. To this End it will be necessary to keep a watchful Eye on the Passages between you & Nelson's Ferry, & be attentive to the communications with that Post, on which Subject I now write to the Com^d Officer there.

I am, Sir

Your obedient humble Servant

W. Balfour.

Lieut: M^cPherson

(Turn over.)

¹ The gallant and able officer who was in command of Fort Motte when it was besieged and taken by Greene's troops in May 1781. The driving away of the families of Whigs from their plantations is consistent with Balfour's action in the execution of Col. Isaac Hayne.

P. S. I must request that you will be so good as to take particular care, that the family's of those who have joined the enemy are not suffered to remain on their plantations but sent off immediately—W. B.

Endorsed:

from Col^o Balfoure
to L^t M^cPherson,
Jan^y 21st 1781.

[EDWARD RUTLEDGE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON²]

My d^r G^r

Calling on the C. de la L³: a few days ago to congratulate him on the Arrival of the F: Fleet in the Bay of C:⁴, The Conversation after a time was turned to the Object agst: which it was hoped the armament was to be employed when the Reduction of C⁵ should be accomplished; & I embraced the Opp'y of urging as far as I was able the necessity & practicability of recovering C. T. to the Union—The Minister appear'd (as he always has been) anxiously disposed to advance the Operation, & desired that I w^d Submt to him in writing my Ideas of the practicability, promising to make up of his best Services wth: the C. de G: for a naval Cooperation—the Candor & Confidence with which he has treated me, the Influence which his Interest may possibly have on the Conduct of the Admiral, & the Import^{ce} of the Object which was to be obtained would not suffer me to hesitate; & I complied with his Request the day before Yesterday by delivering to him such Sentiments as I could well throw together within the Compass of a Letter—urging in addition to the practicability of the Measures, such political Reasons as my Ideas suggested to me for a speedy attempt.

² This is a rough draft of a letter to Gen. Washington written before the surrender of Cornwallis. The original dated Philadelphia, Sept. 12, 1781, is still in existence as a part of the correspondence of Gen. Washington now in the Congressional Library. It shows the deep interest in his State felt by Edward Rutledge, who had just been released from captivity at St. Augustine, and shows the friendly terms upon which Rutledge, as was the case with most of the leaders of the Revolution in South Carolina, was with Gen. Washington.

³ Chevalier de la Luzonne.

⁴ Chesapeake.

⁵ Cornwallis.

I observed to him that, as the F. Fleet in A: was now not only vastly Superior to every th^s the B: have, but to every thing which they can have, even when reinforced by Adm'r D: with 6 Sail of the Line, that it w^d be impossible for the Eng. to venture an attack on them, or attempt the Relief of C. T. with a probability of Success: we had therefore reduced to a certainty, the Force, against which we w^d have to contend.

The Season of the y^r from the begining of Oct^o to the End of the Winter, was on every Acc^t the most eligible for operating—provisions of all Kinds being then in greater plenty, & of better Quality than at any other period—The weather usually remarkably fine—the Climate peculiarly Healthy, & the Strength of the United Army full half way from their late Station, to the Scene of Action.

That should C⁶ be overcome (as Heaven's grant he may) the Acc^t of it would arrive in England just ab^t the Meeting of P——t—an important period in which the Ministry w^d be enabled to Props with more Confidence one or oth^r of the following plans—either to open a Negotiation for a peace, or to Seek out Some new Alliance; to obtain which they must & would make very great Sacrifices; or what was equally probable they w^d annoy us with one, while they push'd the other—If the first plan alone Sh^d be adopted to what Advantage Sh^d we treat if in posson^a of C: T.—if the latter sh^d be successfully persued & we sh^d not be in the possession of C. T. on the arrival of the reinforc^{ts} to the Gen: in C. T. it was impossible to say when or where we ever shall obtain it by Arms—In the Summer we shall be obliged to abandon the lower, to seek Health in the upper p^t of the C^o; to leave the Wealth of the State in the power of our Enemies, & Such Families as could not be remov'd, at their Mercy. Or else we must at all Events keep our Army in the Vicinity of the Town, & suffer it to be consumed by sickness—In Short that there was every thing to be expected from an immediate Exertion, everything, to be dreaded from a delay—I farther observed to him that if we possessed our selves of it at an early period We should have the Benefit of the present Crop which will be soon harvested & be in time to prepare for the ensuing year; which, tho' not of very general nature, is

⁶ Cornwallis.

deserving of Attentions, as will affect the Convenience of some Thousand Individuals, & those of the most helpless class—I then stated to him the Importance of the Southern States to France when considered in a commercial point of View—the great Advantages which She must derive from the Circumstances of those States being principally devoted to Agriculture, their being of course obliged to obtain from abroad almost all the Manufactures which they used & the probability there was of having a considerable part of their produce carried off in y^e Vessels of France; concluding the whole with observing That when the B: C: took their final Leave of A: in 1778 they declared y^t they w^d desolate the Country and render as little useful to France as possible—that in their Declaration they appeared to have been sincere—That they had sent from the Southern States many thousands of Slaves by whom the Fields were cultivated, & probably in their last act of Rage and Malice they would reduce our Capital to Ashes—that the speedy Recovery of the State and a naval Force sufficient to prevent their Escape afther having perpetrated so savage an Act were the only Securities we could possibly have against Beings who have been so long destitute of Humanity, and who would make it their greatest Glory to wound in their vital parts a people united to his most Xtian Mag^t as we were by every Sentiment which Affection & Gratitude c^d inspire.

As I imagined it possible that what has passed on this Occasion might find its way to the Bay of C. I thought it nothing but a matter of Becoming Delicacy as well as a Point of Duty on my part to communicate it to y^o as soon as possible confident as I am that your Friendship will excuse the trouble which the perusal will give you & persuaded that sh^d it become a Subject of conversation & there sh^d be a possibility of their being appeal^{ed} they w^d receive all poss Support from your better Reason.

With the greatest Esteem & affectⁿ I am my d^r Gen^l

Your most affect Friend

E: R:



THOSE gallant SONS of BRITAIN, IRELAND and AMERICA, whose Errors or Misfortunes have compelled them to enlist under the Banners of a Rebel Congress, paid by the King of France, and devoted to his Will—who in Return for their Services, for the Toils, Difficulties and Dangers they have undergone, have neither received the Pay nor Cloathing due to them; and who, in a Word, are now experiencing the Want of almost every Necessary, as well as Comfort of Life;—Let such Men shew the Spirit becoming Freemen; let them disengage themselves from so ignominious, disgraceful and unprofitable a Service.—Within the British Lines, they will be received with Kindness; and may sell their Arms, Accoutrements and Horses; there Tradesmen may follow their Occupations, and be paid in solid Coin for their Work—Such Natives of the Old Country as wish to return Home, will have abundant Opportunities; while those who are desirous of enriching themselves with the Spoils of our Enemies, or are anxious to acquire Military Glory, may enter into the Service of King GEORGE.

*No Scarcity of Rum, Salt, Cloathing, Gold or Silver,
in Charlestown.*

G O D S A V E T H E K I N G .

Endorsed:

Address to the Soldery by the enemy, April 1782.¹

[LIST OF PERSONS ORDERED OUT OF CHARLES TOWN APRIL 28, 1782]⁷

Edm ^d Fitzpatrick & family	Dan ^l Cannon ²⁷ & do
Jn ^o Christ ^r Smith & do	John Webb ²⁸ & d ^o
Jn ^o & W ^m Harvey & do ⁸	Tho ^s Doughty ²⁹ & d ^o
Dan ^l Hall & do ⁹	Chris ^t Williman ³⁰ d ^o
Jn ^o Cox & 2 Sisters	Doctor Harris ³¹ & d ^o
Jn ^o Paul Grimkie ¹⁰ & family	Alex ⁿ Alexander ³²
Sam ^l Prioleau ¹¹ & d ^o	Rob ^t Howard ³²
Joshua Ward ¹² & d ^o	Nathan Childs ³³
Jonathan Scott ¹³ & d ^o	M ^r Clements
James Donavan & d ^o	The Miss Sarazins ³⁴
M ^{rs} Tibout d ^o 13 ¹	John Eberly ³⁵
M ^{rs} Stone d ^o	M ^r Tucker
M ^{rs} Meyers ¹⁴ d ^o	M ^{rs} Tenents family ³⁶
Cha ^s Pinckney ¹⁵ d ^o	M ^{rs} Stephens d ^o 37
Mrs Martin d ^o	M ^r Duvall ³⁸
Mrs Shadd d ^o	M ^c Cully Righton ³⁹
Peter Bacot ¹⁶ d ^o	Alex ^r Rose ⁴⁰
Cap ^t Rich ^d Moncrief d ^o	Peter Neufville ⁴¹
Edw ^d Shrewsbury ¹⁷ d ^o	M ^r Hall ⁴²
M ^r Duboise d ^o	John Glen & family ⁴³
Tho ^s Radcliffe ¹⁸ d ^o	M ^r Lightwood & d ^o 44
M ^r Kirk d ^o	John Calvert & 2 sons ⁴⁵
Tho ^s Burk	W ^m Dewees
M ^{rs} Somersall ¹⁹	M ^r Clarke ⁴⁶
John Colcocks ²⁰ family	M ^{rs} Linnen ⁴⁷
W ^m Mason ²¹	W ^m Roper ⁴⁸
W ^m Print ²²	Phil. Warner
Roger Smith ²³	M ^{rs} Warley ⁴⁹
M ^r Stark ²⁴ & family	Abraham Marclay
Sam ^l Legare ²⁵ & d ^o	W ^m Graham
John M'Call ²⁶ & family	

Endorsed:

List of Persons ordered out of Charlestown April 28, 1782.

⁷ The numbers of the *Royal Gazette*, then printed in Charleston, between March 23 and May 22, 1782, are missing from the volume owned by the Charleston Library Society, and it is impossible to say from this source whether this proclamation was issued in Charleston only, as it purports to be. The House

of Commons had on February 27, 1782, adopted without division a resolution praying the King not to pursue further the object of reducing the Colonies to their allegiance. This news was probably not known in Charleston when this bitter proclamation was issued. On April 4th Gen. Leslie commanding the British forces in Charleston attempted to procure the suspension of the confiscation Acts passed by the Jacksonborough Assembly in January of that year, and the prevention of further devastation on either side, by suggesting the appointment of Commissioners with a view to coming to an agreement on the subject. Governor John Mathews, elected by that Assembly, refused this suggestion (Ramsay, *Revolution In So. Ca.*, Vol. 11, 355). This proclamation and the expulsion from Charleston of prominent Whigs and their families may have resulted from that refusal. There was certainly a renewal of incursions from Charleston into other parts of the State.

⁷ The absence of the files of the *Royal Gazette* mentioned above prevents the verification of this list. Most of the information as to the persons expelled is taken from the almanac of John Tobler, published in 1782 when the British were in possession of Charleston, and from the almanac for 1785 published after the end of the War. Both of these almanacs may be found in the Charleston Library.

⁸ John and William Harvey were brothers and men of property and steady "patriots." William was one of the prisoners confined on the prison ship "Pack Horse." It was on behalf of these prisoners and those confined on the prison ship "Tarbay" that the famous letter was written by their ranking officers saying that if the threats of retaliation upon them, made by Balfour, were carried out for acts of retaliation by Gen. Greene for the execution of Col. Isaac Hayne, and it should fall to the lot of any of them to be "made victims," they had "only to regret that their blood could not be disposed of more to the advancement of the glorious cause to which they had adhered." (Ramsay's *Revolution in So. Ca.*, Vol. 11, 535.)

⁹ Daniel Hall, member of a whole family of patriots. Daniel Hall & Co. did business at 5 Tradd Street in 1785.

¹⁰ John Paul Grimkie was the father of Judge Grimke, then Maj. Grimke, whose order book we have been publishing.

¹¹ Saml. Prioleau, Jr. & Co. were doing business at Cor. Broad & East Bay in 1785.

¹² Joshua Ward was an Attorney at Law, and a man of prominence.

¹³ Jonathan Scott married Ann Harleston. His will was proved April 3rd, 1784

¹³ Tunis Tebout was a "Liberty Tree" patriot of 1766.

¹⁴ Mrs. Meyers. Philip Meyer was on the "Pack Horse." This lady may have been of his family.

¹⁵ Charles Pinckney was the father of Governor Charles Pinckney whose draft of a Constitution of the United States was so largely used in drafting the present Constitution. The father had been a member of Rutledge's council and had afterwards taken protection.

¹⁶ Peter Bacot. The father of Thomas Wright Bacot for many years Post Master of Charleston.

¹⁷ Edward Shrewsbury. One of the well known family now extinct. Stephen Shrewsbury was on the "Torbay."

¹⁸ Thomas Radcliffe was a large property owner, and Radcliff-borough comprising all of the land between King, Vanderhorst, Radcliffe and Smith Streets was his.

¹⁹ Mrs. Somersall. William Somersall was a merchant in Charleston in 1782.

²⁰ John Colcock was the Counsel for Col. Isaac Hayne at the time of his execution (See Genealogy, Vol. III, page 218 of this *Magazine*.)

²¹ William Mason was Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in 1784, probably a reward for his fidelity.

²² William Print was an Attorney at Law.

²³ Roger Smith was a wealthy merchant of the Smith-Rhett family. (See this *Magazine*, Vol. IV, page 41.) He married Mary Rutledge, sister of Governor Rutledge and her full length portrait by Romney was long an ornament of Charleston exhibitions.

²⁴ Mr. Stark. There were three of the name known during the Revolutionary War. Col. Robert Stark was imprisoned in the Provost afterwards the "Old Post Office."

²⁵ Samuel Legare. Also imprisoned for a time in the Provost.

²⁶ John McCall, an insurance broker at 77 Church Street in 1782. The family were well known Whigs.

²⁷ Daniel Cannon. Cannonsborough was named after him. It comprised a large tract of land with mill ponds north of Bull Street and west of Smith and Coming Street.

²⁸ John Webb. Webb & Doughty were in business together in 1785.

²⁹ Thomas Doughty. In 1782 he was a carpenter at 108 Meeting Street.

³⁰ Christopher Williman of the well known family still existing.

³¹ Dr. Harris. Dr. Tucker Harris a physician of prominence.

³² Alexander Alexander. A school master in 1782.

³³ Nathan Childs & Co. were in business at 85 Church Street in 1785.

³⁴ The Miss Sarazins. Jonathan Sarazin was one of those imprisoned in the Provost. These ladies probably held the political views of their relation.

³⁵ John Eberly imprisoned on the "Torbay."

³⁶ Mrs. Tenent's Family. Rev. William Tenent was a Presbyterian clergyman of great distinction, officiating at the Independent Church and a firm adherent of the American cause. He died August 11th, 1777.

³⁷ Mrs. Stephens. Possibly a relation of Daniel Stevens imprisoned in the Provost.

³⁸ Mr. Duvall. There were many of the name in Charleston then and afterwards.

³⁹ McCully Righton. On the "Torbay"

⁴⁰ Alexander Rose, a merchant in 1782. Like Charles Pinckney his name was on the confiscation lists.

⁴¹ Peter Neufville. A prominent Whig family. John and Edward were merchants.

[EDWARD RUTLEDGE TO GOV. JOHN MATHEWS]⁵⁰Oct^r 4th 1782

Sir.

In Obedience to your Excellency's Request to proceed on Wednesday last to M^{rs} Elliott's at Accabee to meet such Gentlemen as should be appointed by L^t General Leslie & to receive & discuss such Propositions as they should think fit to make relative to the Redelivery of American Property within the British Lines—Between two & three o'Clock in the afternnon of that Day M^r Alexander Wright & M^r James Johnston answered on the part of General Leslie & open'd the Business by saying that they had been sent to by that Officer about nine o'Clock in the Morning but had not had access to him until twelve when he desired that they would meet your Excellency's Commissioners and make the following Proposition.

"That there s^d be a Restoration of all American Property now within the British Lines, such only excepted as he should be obliged to remove, by which was to be understood such of our domestics

⁴² Mr. Hall, Also a prominent Whig family. Several of them held important offices after the Revolution.

⁴³ John Glen. Attorney at law in 1782.

⁴⁴ Mr. Lightwood. His house stood at the S. E. corner of Lightwood Alley, now Atlantic Street and Meeting Street.

⁴⁵ John Calvert was a merchant in 1785.

⁴⁶ Mr. Clark. John Clark, Jr. was on the "Torbay."

⁴⁷ Mrs. Linnen. Probably "Linning," of a well known family.

⁴⁸ William Roper lived at 52 Bay Street in 1782; of the well known family.

⁴⁹ Mrs. Warley. Felix Warley was Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in 1784. Felix, Paul, Joseph and George, all officers in the Continental Line, were probably her sons.

⁵⁰ On August 17th, 1782 Governor Mathews had written to Gen. Leslie threatening that if the property of the citizens of South Carolina was carried off by the British fleet, which was assembling for the evacuation of Charleston, he would seize the debts due to the British merchants then in Charleston. This had led to the appointment of Commissioners on either side who on October 10th, 1782 came to an agreement, seeking to prevent, among other things, the carrying off of negroes belonging to citizens of the State, upon the fleet. This letter is a draft of the first report made by Edward Rutledge and Benjamin Guerard, appointed by the Governor, with regard to their efforts to reach an agreement.

as had rendered themselves obnoxious to their Masters by being servicable to the British: that they would nevertheless be fairly valued and fully paid for. Upon Condition that y^r Excellency & the Council would agree to a suspension of the Confiscation Act and pledge themselves to use their best Endeavours as well in their Judicial as official Capacities to obtain a total Repeal of that Act upon the next meeting of the Legislature” Your Xcy’s Com’ers answered them by saying that the Act of which the Repeal was required had been passed in the full assembly, upon mature Deliberation & with the full concurrence of both Houses, that y^r Xcy. would therefore in our opinion assume a great deal too much should y^o attempt to suspend the Operation of that Act & that therefore any Interference with it on that Head y^r Xcy’s considered was utterly inadmissible. The British Commers replied that they were not at Liberty to make any further offers, General Leslie having declared his Resolution in Case his propositions should not be acceded to to carry off all the Property he could possess himself of, that Compensation might be made to the Friends of British Government for their Losses. But that as the Subject which we were discussing was of vast Importance, & as they were at Liberty to listen to any Proposition from us they were desirous of knowing what engagem^{ts} we would enter into for the Property in Question—y^r Excys Commers then answered that in passing the Act above mentioned the Legislature had exercised a great Degree of Humanity by exempting from Confiscation Debts due to British Merchants, to their own Citizens who were the Object of the Act, & Settlements fairly made for the Provision of Families—that such Lenity would appear the more conspicuous when our former Forbearance was recollected & compared with the conduct of British Generals [Lord Cornwallis’s name written and erased] from the time that the American Government had been established on the Ruins of the Royal authority until the Reduction of Charles Town the Pt^y of the Subjects of G: B: & of our own Inhabitants who had declared their Sentiments & with drawn from our Society had been secured & protected by Our Laws, And how had we been requited? We had been requited in the following Manner—the The Capitulation had been infringed as soon almost as it had been signed—the Property of nearly every Citizen who had adhered to his Alleg^{ce}: had been sequestered & much of it squandered,—

Marriage Settlements had been broken in upon—the validity of Contracts for the Sale of estates since the Revolution had been questioned for the Purpose of grasping the Property of our fellow Citizens—& even Debts which were due to our unfortunate Countrymen were made Objects for Sequestration—that in Consequence; of such Conduct we had sustained hopes (independent of the ppty in Town) infinitely beyond what we had confiscated, from thence we should have been fully justified in going every length; & that if the British should carry off such of our Property as was now in their Possession, the people of this State would hold themselves at Liberty to proceed to the Extremity of Power: that having now given this previous and timely notice if they by their Conduct should compel us to go into measures painful to our feelings & injurious to their Interests the Misfortune & the Faults would be on their own Heads as we had in what was withheld from Confiscation ample Funds for Reperation? Yet as we wished to avoid any further Measures which could occasion them Distress we were ready & willing on our part to do every thing in our power to prevent: & then Your Eccy's Commers made the following Proposition &c &c.

The British Commers replied that the Proposals appeared deserving of serious Consideration & requested that they might have an opp'y of communicating them to Gen^l L. to which we readily agreed & they accordingly returned to Town that Even'g & came up again about two oClock to day with the following Answer—&c.

It appearing that nothing more could be done in this Business an End was put to the Conference by mutually declaring that we did not consider the Propositions on either side as any longer binding & that each Party was as much at Liberty as before the Conference We have the Honor to be

Endorsed;
from Ed^w Rutledge
4th Oct^r 1782.

(To be continued.)